Listing of Claims:

The claims have not been amended herein. This listing of claims is provided for the Examiner's convenient reference.

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the incidence of post-operative adhesions in a body cavity, comprising introducing into the body cavity a composition comprising an aqueous formulation further comprising a polysaccharide dextrin in an amount effective to reduce the incidence of said post-operative adhesions, wherein the dextrin is unsubstituted and the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerization (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other, and wherein the aqueous formulation is a solution in the body cavity and remains in the body cavity for at least 2 days.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein said composition is applied to the appropriate body cavity after a surgical operation has been carried out.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the aqueous formulation remains in the body cavity for a minimum of 2 to 3 days.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the aqueous formulation remains in the body cavity over the period during which fibrin exudation is at a maximum.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the aqueous formulation remains in the body cavity for a period of up to 7 to 8 days in order to allow restoration of non-stick surfaces.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is applied to the body cavity in a volume in the range of 500-2000 ml.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is applied to the body cavity in a volume in the range of 1000 ml-1500 ml.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in differing concentrations over a concentration range of 2.5-18 % weight to volume of the composition.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in differing concentrations over a concentration range of 3-5 % weight to volume of the composition.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in an amount of about 4 % weight to volume of the composition.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the concentration range of the dextrin is selectively altered over a period of time.

36-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the aqueous formulation remains in the body cavity for a period of up to 3 to 4 days in order to allow restoration of non-stick surfaces.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the aqueous formulation largely holds in place over the period the aqueous formulation resides in the body cavity.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the appropriate body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 45 wherein the body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 46 wherein the body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

51. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the incidence of post-operative adhesions in a body cavity, comprising introducing into the body cavity a composition comprising an aqueous formulation further comprising a polysaccharide dextrin in an amount effective to reduce the incidence of said post-operative adhesions, wherein the dextrin is unsubstituted and the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerization (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other, and wherein:

(a) the aqueous formulation is a solution in the body cavity, remains in the body cavity for at least 2 days and is not removed;

(b) the dextrin is applied to the body cavity in an amount of about 4 % weight to volume of the composition; and

(c) the composition is administered intraperitoneally.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the composition is introduced into the body cavity when the operation is an abdominal operation.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the composition is introduced into the body cavity when the operation is a gynecological operation.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the composition is introduced into the body cavity after an abdominal operation has been carried out.

57. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the incidence of post-operative adhesions in a body cavity, comprising:

(a) introducing into the body cavity a composition comprising an aqueous formulation further comprising a polysaccharide dextrin in an amount effective to reduce the incidence of said post-operative adhesions, wherein the dextrin is unsubstituted and the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerization (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other, and wherein the aqueous formulation is a solution in the body cavity; and

(b) allowing the aqueous formulation to remain in the body cavity for at least 2 days, wherein the aqueous formulation is not removed from the body cavity.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein the composition is introduced into the body cavity when the operation is an abdominal operation.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein the composition is introduced into the body cavity when the operation is a gynecological operation.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein said composition is applied to the appropriate body cavity after a surgical operation has been carried out.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein a volume of the aqueous formulation remains in the body cavity for a minimum of 2 to 3 days.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein the composition is applied to the body cavity in a volume in the range of 500-2000 ml.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein the composition is applied to the body cavity in a volume in the range of 1000 ml-1500 ml.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in an amount of about 4 % weight to volume of the composition.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65 wherein the body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

67. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the incidence of post-operative adhesions in a body cavity, comprising introducing into the body cavity a composition comprising an aqueous formulation further comprising a polysaccharide dextrin in an amount effective to reduce the incidence of said post-operative adhesions, wherein the dextrin is unsubstituted and the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerization (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the

aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other, and wherein the aqueous formulation is a solution in the body cavity administered under surgical conditions and the aqueous formulation remains in the body cavity and is not removed.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the surgical condition is an abdominal surgery.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the surgical condition is a gynecological surgery.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein said composition is applied to the appropriate body cavity after a surgical operation has been carried out.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the aqueous formulation remains in the body cavity for a minimum of 2 to 3 days.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the composition is applied to the body cavity in a volume in the range of 500-2000 ml.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the composition is applied to the body cavity in a volume in the range of 1000 ml-1500 ml.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in an amount of about 4 % weight to volume of the composition.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.

77. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the incidence of post-operative adhesions in a body cavity, comprising introducing into the body cavity a composition comprising less than 2000 ml of an aqueous formulation further comprising a polysaccharide dextrin in an amount effective to reduce the incidence of said post-operative adhesions, wherein the dextrin is unsubstituted and the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerization (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other, and wherein the aqueous formulation is a solution in the body cavity and the aqueous formulation remains in the body cavity and is not removed.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77 wherein the composition is introduced into the body cavity when the operation is an abdominal operation.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77 wherein the composition is introduced into the body cavity when the operation is a gynecological operation.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77 wherein said composition is applied to the appropriate body cavity after a surgical operation has been carried out.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77 wherein at least a portion of the volume of the aqueous formulation remains in the body cavity for a minimum of 2 to 3 days.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in an amount of about 4 % weight to volume of the composition.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82 wherein the body cavity is a peritoneal cavity.